

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 14 are in the application.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, claim 2 has been written in independent form.

In view of the fact that the Examiner has indicated that 2 - 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is submitted that claims 2 - 14 in the application are allowable.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Weckerle, et al. are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to make it clear that the auxiliary device is not scrapearable.

Support for the change in claim 1 can be found in the paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17 of the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as claimed in claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

The present invention is directed to a varnishing installation with a varnish line. The varnish line has an inlet end, through which usually varnish is supplied, and an outlet end through which the varnish is conducted, for example, to a discharge device. An auxiliary device is arranged between the two ends of the varnish line, wherein the auxiliary device is not scrapeable.

Such a varnish line has to be cleaned when, for example, a different color is to be conducted through the same varnish line.

For this purpose, it is known in the art to use a scraper. A scraper is forced through the varnish line from one end thereof. In doing so, the scraper pushes through the varnish present in the varnish line.

The auxiliary device, for example, a metering pump or similar, constitutes a problem because the scraper cannot be moved through the auxiliary device. While it is possible to force the scraper from one end up to the auxiliary device, the scraper cannot travel through the auxiliary device without being damaged. Consequently, the section of the varnish line between the auxiliary device and the other end cannot be scraped with the same scraper. The scraper would have to be removed from the line and once again be inserted behind the auxiliary device and the

scraper could then be allowed to continue traveling. As an alternative it would also be possible to use two scrapers. However, this would make the installation more expensive.

It is the object of the invention to lose as little varnish as possible during cleaning.

In accordance with the present invention as claimed in claim 1, the object is met by connecting the auxiliary device through a valve arrangement to the varnish line, wherein the valve arrangement is scrapeable.

In other words, the valve arrangement is used in order to bridge the auxiliary device. If the line between the input end and the output end is to be scraped, the valve arrangement is used to establish a continuous path through the varnishing installation between the inlet end and the outlet end.

The Examiner has cited the reference to Weckerle, et al. and has taken the position that this reference anticipates the present invention as claimed in claim 1.

This reference shows a coating system with unidirectional scraping technology as set forth in the title of the reference. A varnish line 3 has an inlet end with a scraper inserting station

4 and an outlet end with a scraper removal station 6. Between the scraper inserting station 4 and the scraper removal station 6, the varnish line is smooth, i.e., is not interrupted by an auxiliary device. Rather, the scrapers are inserted in the varnish line 3 only in the scraper inserting station 4 and are removed from the varnish line at the scraper removal station 6. The scrapers 8 serve to separate two different types of coating materials or varnishes.

The reference also shows additional sections of the varnish line 11, for example, the sections 11, 11' in front of the varnish line, i.e., in front of the scraper inserting station 4, and the varnish line behind the scraper inserting station 4, and the varnish line behind the scraper removal station 6 in which a metering pump 13 is arranged. However, these sections cannot be scraped. Consequently, there is also no valve arrangement which could be scrapeable.

Applicants respectfully submit that the reference clearly does not show any valve arrangements, except for the valves which are arranged at the color return lines 12, 12'. However, these valves are clearly not scrapeable and are also not inherently scrapeable.

Applicants submit that the reference relied on by the

Examiner in rejecting claim 1 does not show an auxiliary device and also no valve arrangement which could be scrapeable. Rather, the varnish line has no interruptions.

If the scraper inserting station 4 and the scraper removal station 6 were to be considered an auxiliary device, then the valve arrangement through which the auxiliary device is connected to the varnish line cannot be seen. Consequently, the valve arrangement is not illustrated in such a way as to indicate that it is scrapeable.

Since the valve arrangement is missing and essentially no auxiliary device is shown, the subject matter of claim 1 is clearly novel over the prior art.

Applicants submit that the reference also does not render the present invention as claimed in claim 1 obvious.

The reference clearly does not provide any suggestions to modify the varnish line 9 in such a way that an auxiliary device is added and this auxiliary device is connected through a valve arrangement to the varnish line 9. Consequently, the present invention as claimed in claim 1 is also not rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

The remaining references cited in the Office Action but not relied on for any rejection have been reviewed, however, the references also do not disclose or suggest the present invention as claimed in claim 1.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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